

1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, 2012

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 16/03/2012

CONTENTS

We're keen to get your feedback on this newsletter so that it remains useful. Please email your comments and suggestions to: regional.statistics@abs.gov.au.



The ABS Regional Statistics Program

Includes: Information about the activities of the **Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre**, including key engagement.

Focus On: Includes feature articles in this issue.

Population Growth and Turnover in Local Government Areas (added Oct 2012)

Wages and Salaries Between Local Government Areas (added Oct 2012)

Agriculture Program News (added Oct 2012)

Exploring the New ABS Geography with Buildings Data (added Apr 2012)

Regional Data at Your Finger Tips (added Mar 2012)

Population Census Developments

Includes: Information about the **2011 Census output plans** and **changes from the 2006 Census**.



ABS Geography and Local Government Areas

Includes: Information about **local government areas** and the implementation of the **Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)**.

Regional Population Estimates

Includes: Information about **Estimated Resident Population** statistics.



Local Government Finance News

Includes: An update on the latest news and developments in **Local Government Finance**.



Other News and Contacts

Includes: Information about the developments in **Regional Internal Migration Estimates**, **Statistical Quality Management** initiatives and more.

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1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, 2012

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THE ABS REGIONAL STATISTICS PROGRAM

Added 31/10/2012

In partnership with the **Australian Community Indicators Network (ACIN)** we have been involved in preparations for the next national video seminar scheduled for 12th November 2012. This seminar will use 'housing' as a theme to discuss Census data availability, practical use and appearance under the new ABS geography, the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). Speakers will also provide their views on the 4th OECD World Forum in New Delhi, India. The forum occurred on 16-19 October 2012 with the theme 'Measuring Well-being for Development and Policy Making'. More information about the network can be found on the ACIN website. Recordings of seminars held by the network can also be found on the National Statistical Service website.

As an outcome of consultation with users in early 2012, the next release of the **National Regional Profile (NRP)** will contain a number of new data items, expanding the range of data provided for small regions. Some key additions to the NRP content include:

- counts of businesses by industry, and entries and exits by employment size
- proportion of the youth population (15-19 years) fully engaged in work and/or study
- labour force participation rate and top five employing industries
- method of travel to work
- war service pensions and income support supplement data
- average monthly household rent and mortgage payments
- average number of usual residents per private dwelling
- average household and family size
- population of working age (15-64 years) and median age (all persons)
- gross value of irrigated agriculture production
- dynamic land cover (land cover type) and main land use category.

Most of these data items can be repeated across multiple levels of geography, Australia-wide. The next release of the NRP will be for local government areas and regions in the Australian Statistical Geography Standard, including SA2, SA3, SA4 and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas.

NRP content development is a long term ongoing focus. If you have discovered useful datasets or data items with wider appeal, that could be replicated across jurisdictions and add value to the NRP, we invite you to contact us with your suggestions. Please call Arnold Strals on (08) 8237 7365 or email regional.statistics@abs.gov.au.

Added 12/4/2012

The **2012 Local Government Managers Association (LGMA) National Congress & Business Expo** will be held on 20-23 May in Perth. The ABS will have an exhibition booth at this conference and members of our team will be there. We encourage you to come and see us for a chat about ABS data, to ask questions or to get a demonstration of our online products. Data from the 2011 Census will be released soon and we will be available to talk with you about this too. For more information about the LGMA National Congress & Business Expo see the LGMA website.

[Back to top](#)

Added 16/3/2012

Welcome to the latest edition of the 'Local Government and ABS' newsletter.

Recently, there has been significant focus on regional policy and programs at all levels of government - and an increasing need for an evidence base. Our team at the ABS Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre (RRSNC) aim to understand the need for regional data across a wide range of data users, including local government.

We engage with the **Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport** - who have a strong interest in regional data, including data for Local Government Areas (LGAs) as well as the 55 Regional Development Australia (RDA) regions (aggregates of LGAs). That Department began to develop a new website in 2011, "myregion.gov" and ABS are currently assisting the Department with relevant data to support future development of this site, as well as for the other policy and planning activities of the Department.

The ABS aim to support local governments and RDA committees with relevant statistics for local planning and evaluation. Late in 2011 I attended the **Local Government Researchers Forum**, run by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG), and I heard about a variety of research and survey work being undertaken by local government. I presented a brief paper outlining some aspects of our ABS program of statistics for local government - the papers from this forum can be found via the ACELG website.

We are also involved in the **Australian Community Indicators Network** (ACIN). The ACIN aims to assist people using or developing community indicators to share ideas and information and to foster collaboration. For information see the ACIN website. Recordings of seminars held by the network can also be found on the National Statistical Service website.

We would like to **engage with local government** in order to build our understanding of your data needs and support you to use data effectively. We would also welcome feedback on our products and services such as the LGA profiles in the National Regional Profile (NRP). A feature article on the NRP, Regional Data At Your Finger Tips, is included in this newsletter. If you are working for local government and using ABS data, or have a local planning or research project you want to discuss with us, please contact Francesca Foster, on (08) 8237 7372 or email regional.statistics@abs.gov.au.

To keep up with recent news, from now on this newsletter will be updated more regularly. We encourage you to subscribe now to get email notification of updates.

Best wishes for all your plans in 2012 - and may they be data rich!

Regards,

Lisa Conolly
Director, Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre

[Back to top](#)

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This document was added 10/31/2012.



POPULATION GROWTH AND TURNOVER IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Introduction

Highlights from this release

Further information

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered which Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Australia have grown the most between censuses? Or which LGAs have the highest turnover of people moving into and out of them?

A new issue of the 'Perspectives on Regional Australia' series, released by the ABS on 29 October 2012, uses 2001 and 2006 Census data to examine these questions. Perspectives on Regional Australia: Population Growth and Turnover in Local Government Areas (LGAs), 2001 to 2006 (cat. no. 1380.0.55.007) uses common concepts of 'growth' and 'turnover' to explore which LGAs in Australia:

- experienced high population growth between 2001 and 2006;
- experienced high 'turnover' rates of people moving into and out of them between 2001 and 2006;
- experienced high growth between 2001 and 2006 and also high (or low) movement of people into and out of them between 2001 and 2006;
- experienced low growth between 2001 and 2006 and also high (or low) movement of people into and out of them in between 2001 and 2006.

Population growth and turnover are of interest for the planning, design and delivery of services and infrastructure in regions. In contrast to population growth rates, turnover rates measure the extent to which people move into and out of a region. Population turnover rates indicate change in the composition of a region, and are of strong interest because they can help understand, for example, why the characteristics and needs of a region are changing significantly, even if the population count is relatively stable.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS RELEASE

The median population growth rate, using counts from the Census, across all LGAs in Australia was 0.7% between 2001 and 2006, and the median turnover rate was 499.6 persons per thousand. However, LGAs experiencing high population growth based on Census counts between 2001 and 2006 did not necessarily have high population turnover in that same period. For example, Ballarat (C) had an annual average population growth rate of 1.4% between 2001 and 2006, but a population turnover rate of 347.8 per thousand between 2001 and 2006.

To examine LGAs from both a population growth and a population turnover perspective, LGAs were grouped into one of four categories, with:

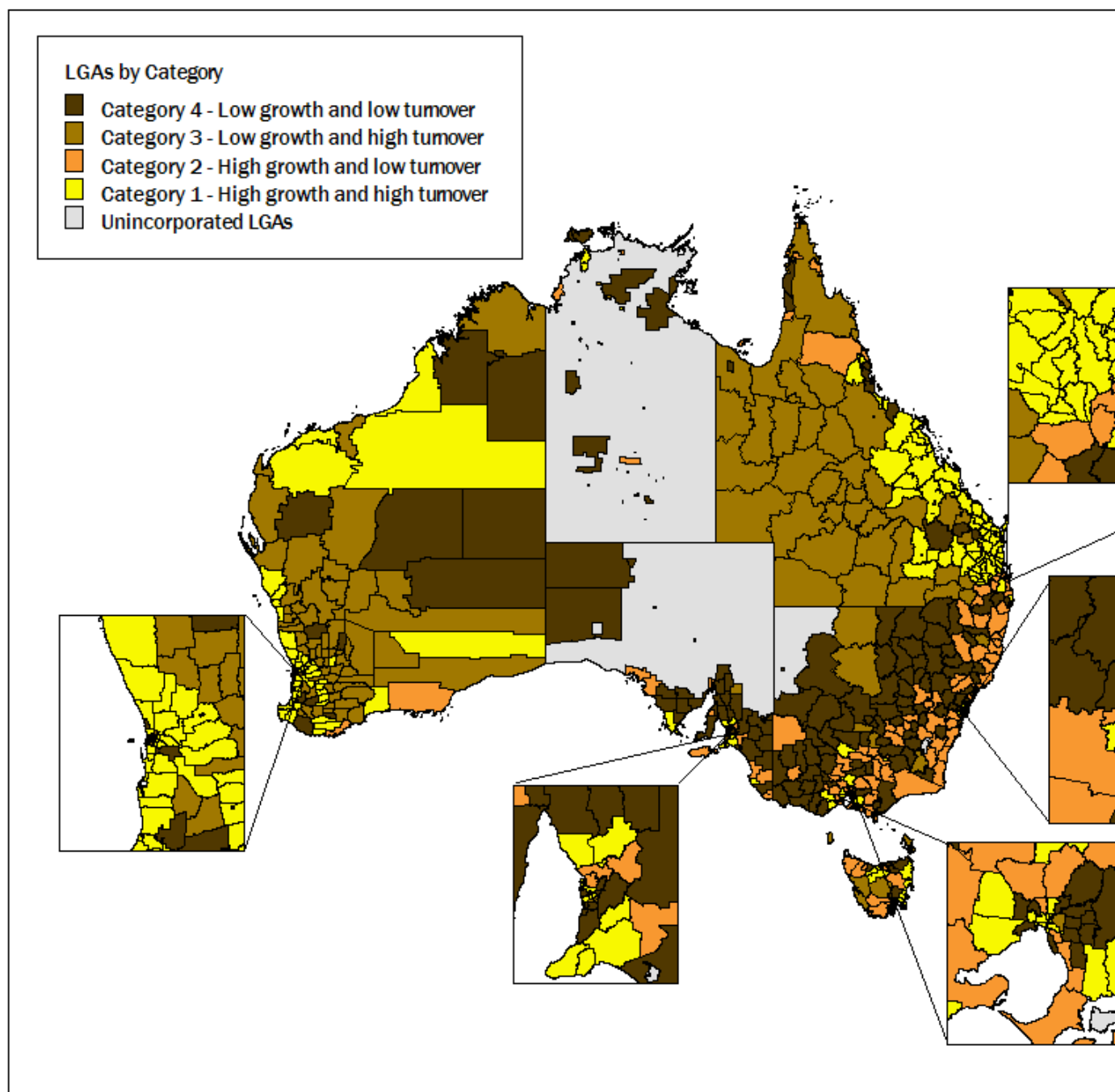
- High average annual population growth rates between 2001 and 2006, and high population turnover rates between 2001 and 2006:
- High growth and low turnover;
- Low growth and high turnover;
- Low growth and low turnover.

LGA's were classified as high/low population growth if their average annual population growth rate between 2001 and 2006 based on Census counts was above/below the median annual average population growth rate for all LGA's in Australia. LGA's were classified as high/low turnover between 2001 and 2006 based on Census counts if their population turnover rate between 2001 and 2006 was above/below the median turnover rate for all LGA's in Australia.

Map 1 presents the results of classifying LGA's into one of these four categories.

[Back to top](#)

Map 1. POPULATION GROWTH AND POPULATION TURNOVER RATES - Local Government Areas, 2001 to 2006



Many LGAs in Category One, with high population growth and high turnover between 2001 and 2006 based

on Census counts were in mining areas in regional Western Australia and Queensland - such as East Pilbara (S) and Roebourne (S) in Western Australia and Bowen (S) in Queensland - and in inner cities (e.g. Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide and Sydney).

Category Two LGAs (high growth/low turnover) were typically larger regional centres and areas of new housing, such as Cairns (C) and the Gold Coast in Queensland, Wagga Wagga (C) and Albury (C) in New South Wales, Ballarat (C) in Victoria, Murray Bridge (RC) in South Australia, and Albany (C) in Western Australia.

Category Three LGAs (low growth/high turnover) were typically in rural and remote areas (e.g. Cobar (A) and Murrumbidgee (A) in New South Wales, Longreach (S), Charters Towers (C) and Cloncurry in Queensland, and Coober Pedy (DC) in South Australia).

Category Four LGAs (low growth/low turnover) were typically in regional areas with older populations, such as Broken Hill (C), Gundagai (A) and Tenterfield in New South Wales, Launceston (C) in Tasmania, Ararat, (RC) Hepburn (S), Southern Grampians (S) in Victoria, and Renmark Paringa (DC) in South Australia.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional analysis, and population growth and turnover data for all LGAs, are available in Perspectives on Regional Australia: Population Growth and Turnover in Local Government Areas (LGAs), 2001 to 2006 (cat. no. 1380.0.55.007) including data for all LGAs, available from the Downloads tab. The publication also includes a detailed explanation of the methodology used and the limitations of using Census data to calculate population growth and turnover.

[Back to top](#)

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This document was added 10/31/2012.



WAGES AND SALARIES BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Introduction

Regional variations in wage and salary income, 2008-09

Growth of average annual wage and salary income, 2003-04 to 2008-09

Further information

INTRODUCTION

An analysis of geographical variations in average 'Wage and salary earner' income has been released in Perspectives on Regional Australia: Variations in Wage and Salary Income between Local Government Areas (LGAs), 2003-04 to 2008-09 (cat. no. 1380.0.55.006). The Perspectives article uses data for local government areas (LGA) from Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2008-09 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003). The analysis at the LGA level will support local governments, policy makers and researchers who use LGA boundaries for planning and policy decisions.

For most people, household income is the most important determinant of their economic well-being and their ability to support a minimum material standard of living. Household income also contributes to the economic well-being of the communities and regions in which people live. Although people may receive income from a number of sources, over 80% of all income earned by Australian taxpayers is derived from wages and salaries.

Analysing geographical variations in average Wage and salary income can provide valuable information about the relative advantage or disadvantage of different regions. The data presented in this article can be used to explore questions such as:

- Which LGAs had higher average Wage and salary income compared to others?
- Which LGAs experienced higher growth in Wage and salary income compared to others?
- Which LGAs with high average Wage and salary income experienced either above or below average income growth?
- Which LGAs with low average Wage and salary income experienced either above or below average income growth?

The following are some highlights for local government areas from the Perspectives article.

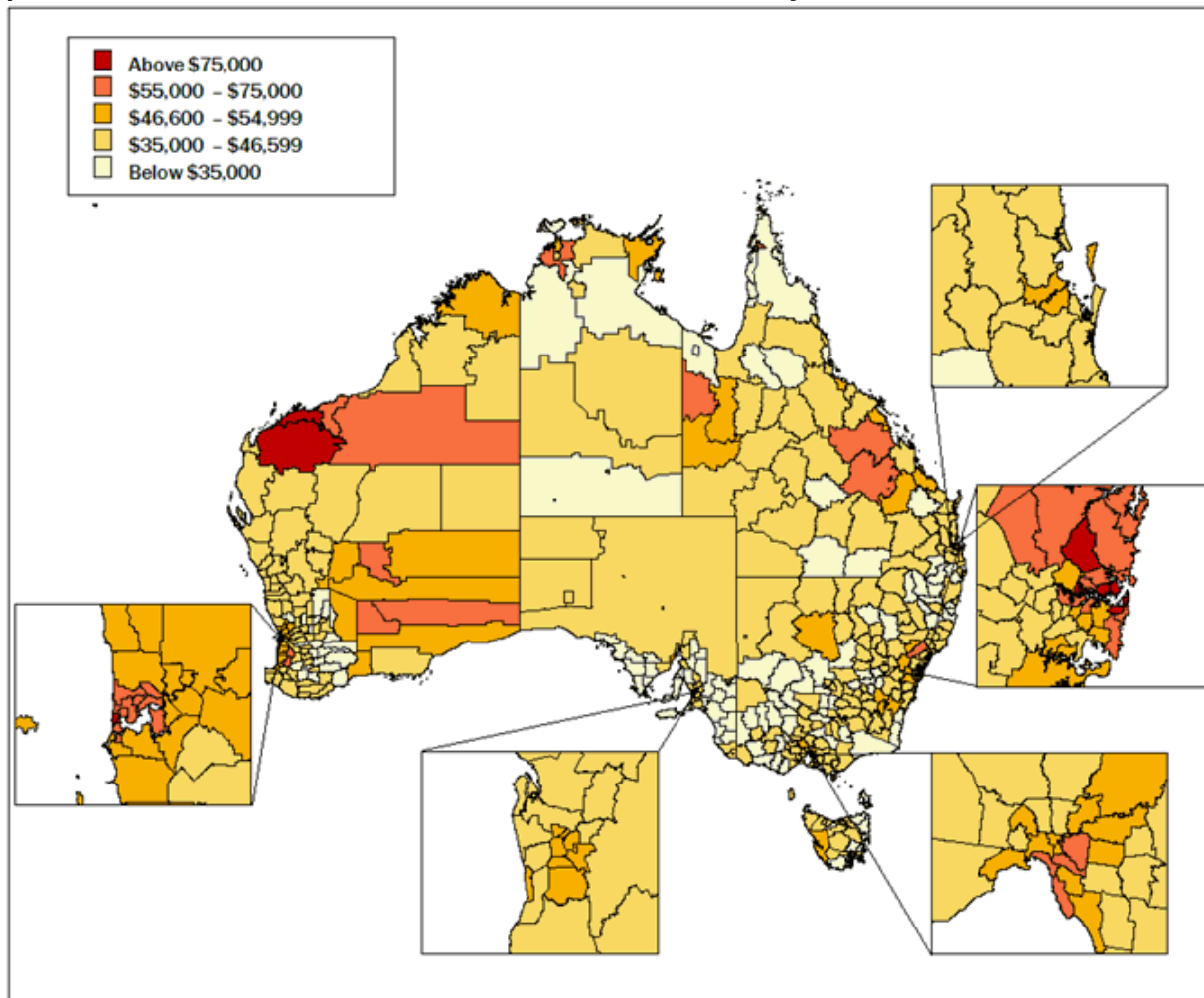
[Back to top](#)

REGIONAL VARIATIONS IN WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, 2008-09

In Australia, the average income from wages and salaries was \$46,599 in 2008-09. This amount has increased from \$36,889 in 2003-04, at an average annual rate of 4.8%. Map 1 shows regional variations in average annual Wage and salary income in 2008-09 by Local Government Area (LGA). The LGAs with the highest average income from wages and salaries were the inner metropolitan areas of Australia's capital cities or mining areas, such as Roebourne (S) in Western Australia and Roxby Downs (M) in South

Australia. However, the majority of LGAs recorded average Wage and salary incomes below the Australian average, and these were generally located outside of major cities.

Map 1. AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME - By Local Government Area, 2008-09



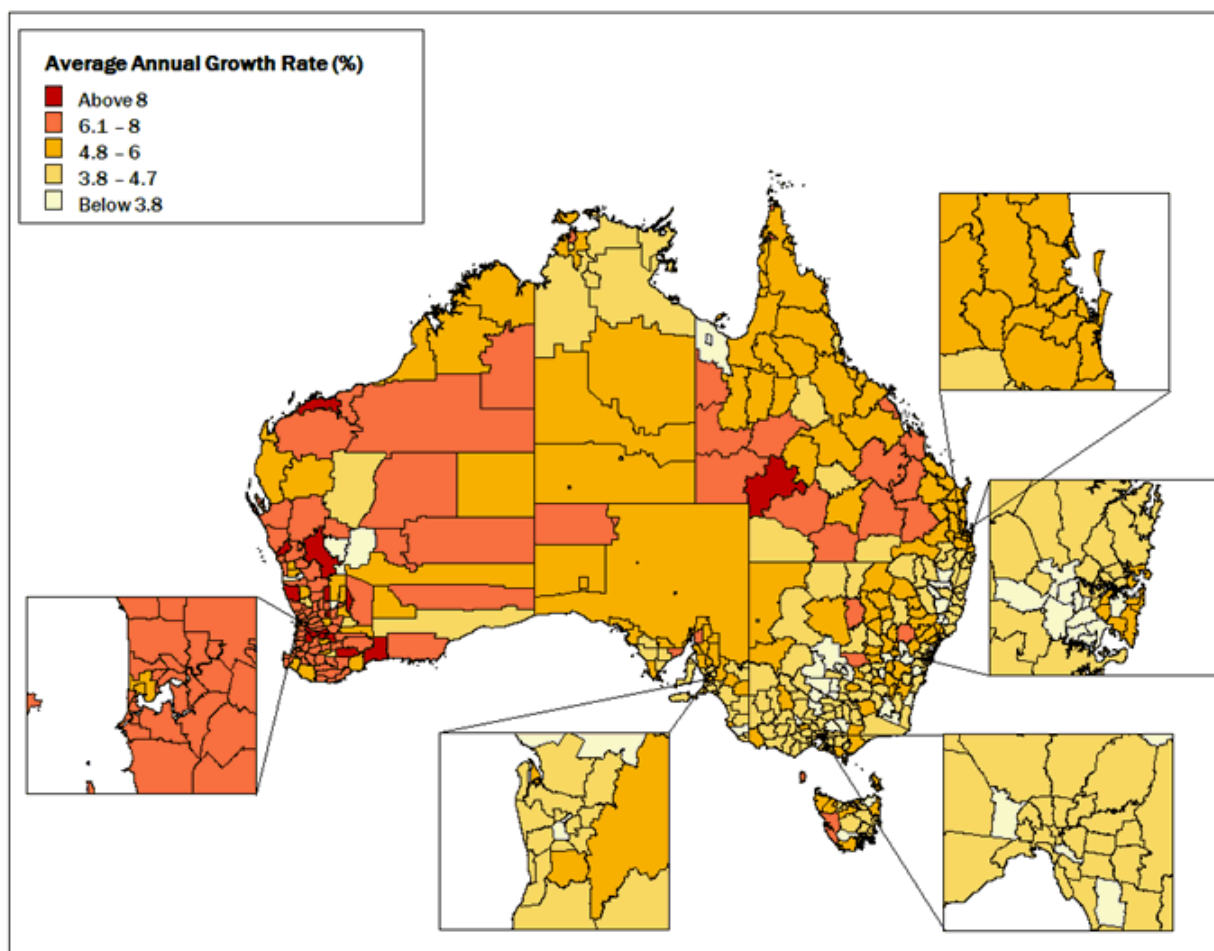
[Back to top](#)

GROWTH OF AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, 2003-04 TO 2008-09

All LGAs in Australia experienced growth in average annual Wage and salary income between 2003-04 and 2008-09. Map 2 shows that the majority of LGAs with high average annual growth rates of Wage and salary income were located in rural agricultural or mining areas. Many LGAs in the Perth metropolitan area also experienced relatively high growth in average Wage and salary income, with average annual growth rates above 6%. Many of the metropolitan areas of Australia's other capital cities experienced average annual growth rates of Wage and salary income that were very close to or only slightly below the Australian average growth rate of 4.8%.

While Brisbane (C) as a whole LGA experienced an above average growth rate of Wage and salary income (5.6%), there are significant variations of income growth between the Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) within this LGA. For example, the inner suburban SLAs of Balmoral, Bulimba and Hawthorne all experienced high growth rates of 7.4%, yet the outer suburban SLAs of Sunnybank, MacGregor and Robertson all had below average growth rates of 3.5%.

Map 2. GROWTH OF AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME - By Local Government Area, 2003-04 to 2008-09



FURTHER INFORMATION

To read the full article, refer to *Perspectives on Regional Australia: Variations in Wage and Salary Income between Local Government Areas (LGAs). 2003-04 to 2008-09* (cat. no. 1380.0.55.006).

For more information on data available at the LGA level visit [Finding data for Local Government Areas](#).

[Back to top](#)

This page last updated 30 January 2013

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1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, 2012

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This document was added 10/31/2012.



AGRICULTURE PROGRAM NEWS

The ABS Rural Environment and Agriculture Statistics Branch (REASB) collect a wide range of agriculture and land management practices data via annual and sub-annual collections. Intermittent surveys and the established statistical program is designed to respond to existing and emerging information needs, they also contribute to other statistical programs undertaken by the ABS, for example the compilation of the National Accounts that provides a summary of national economic activity. The REASB survey program has four main objectives:

- To determine and analyse the contribution of the farm sector to the Australian economy;
- To support the determination and monitoring of rural environment and agriculture policies, for example drought relief, food security, water and natural resource policies as they relate to agriculture;
- To support decision makers involved in producing, supplying, marketing and trading agricultural commodities and water used by the agricultural sector; and
- To support the monitoring of issues affecting Australian rural communities.

To ensure the statistical program objectives and subsequent outcomes remain relevant, the ABS has undertaken a review of its Rural Environment and Agriculture Statistical Program. Drivers of the statistical review include rapidly evolving policy around environmental issues such as the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI), which is encompassed by the Australian Government's Clean Energy Futures program. Other national and international drivers including the release of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics – United Nations February 2010 (international), and Essential Statistical Assets for Australia – National Statistical Service May 2012 (national), have helped inform the statistical review to ensure the ABS continues to respond to emerging information.

[Back to top](#)

The Survey Program Review (SPR) was initiated through the release of a discussion paper: Discussion Paper: Environment and Agriculture Survey Program Review, 2011-12 (cat. no. 7105.0.55.001), on 11 October 2011. The REASB sought comment via the discussion paper on key rural environment-and agriculture policy issues relevant to stakeholders to assist in understanding current and emerging policy directions and information needs. The key messages received from the submissions were:

- A critical continued need for agricultural data, especially at low level geographies;
- An increasing emphasis on rural environment and land use and land practice data;
- A need for consistent data to be collected over time; and
- A survey program that is able to remain flexible and relevant to meet the changing policy environment.

The main outcome of the SPR has been the development of the 2012-2016 statistical forward work program. The details of this program will be available to the public in early 2013. In 2013 the SPR will continue, with investigation of potential new areas of data collection not already in scope of the program. Possible introduction of these new areas into the work program will be considered alongside consultation with key stakeholder groups. The REASB engagement program will also help to facilitate collaboration and discussion among key stakeholders in the rural environment and agriculture statistical community in the

determination of priority information requirements.

For more information on the REASB statistical program, please contact Katie Hutt (03) 6222 5866 or Nicole Lehmann (03) 6222 5785.

[Back to top](#)

This page last updated 30 January 2013

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1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, 2012

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 12/04/2012



EXPLORING THE NEW ABS GEOGRAPHY WITH BUILDINGS DATA

- Introduction
- Background
- Case study #1
- Case study #2
- Case study #3
- Case study #4
- Conclusion
- Further information

INTRODUCTION

From July 2011, the ABS began to release data using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). Regions and boundaries from the previous Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), such as Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), are being replaced by new geographies. The first ABS series released on the ASGS was Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no 8731.0) and this article uses these data in case studies to illustrate the change.

BACKGROUND

Some benefits of this recent change to the ASGS include:

- The regions at each level of the ASGS ABS structures are more consistent in population size.
- The regions at each level of the ASGS ABS structures are optimised for the statistical data to be released for them.
- The Main Structure Statistical Area (SA) units are based on the idea of a functional area and built around whole official gazetted localities, which will result in more meaningful regions.
- The regions at each level of the ASGS ABS structures will remain stable until the next Population Census in 2016.

More information on the ASGS can be found by visiting the Geography Portal on the ABS website. This includes details about the new ASGS regions referred to in this article, for example, the Statistical Area 2 (SA2) and Statistical Area 3 (SA3) regions.

The four case studies presented in this article illustrate some impacts from changing to the ASGS:

- Case Study #1 shows a former SLA (ASGC) that is now represented by eight SA2s (ASGS), with the result that more regional data is now available.
- Case Study #2 shows where five sparsely 'populated' SLAs are now one SA2.
- Case Study #3 is an example of where a Statistical Subdivision (SSD) covers an apparently similar geographic area to two SA3s. However, as the area covered by the SA3s is slightly different, understanding where the boundaries are is important. Also, in this example, the component SA2s within the SA3s offer more regional data than previously under the ASGC.

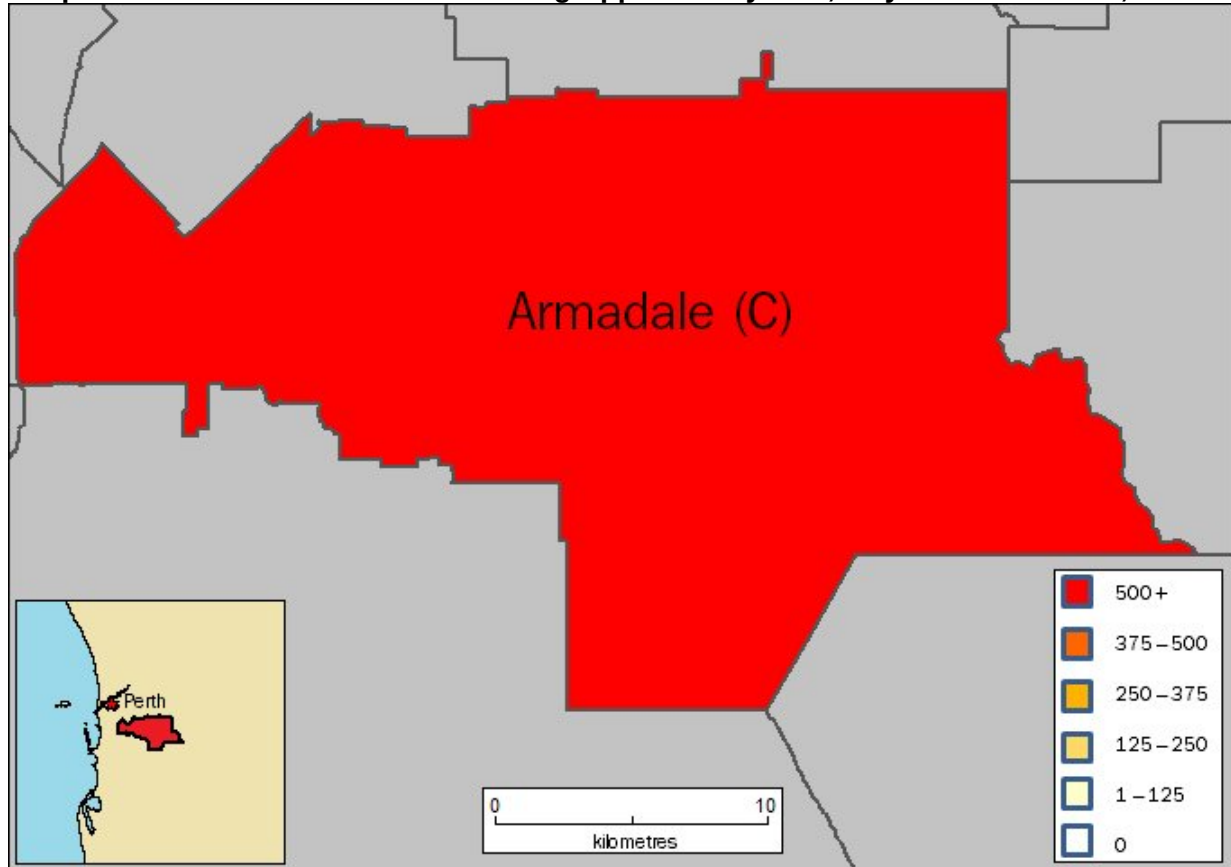
- Case Study # 4 shows another example of different boundaries. In this case, the SLA and SA2 have similar names but cover different areas.

[Back to top](#)

CASE STUDY #1

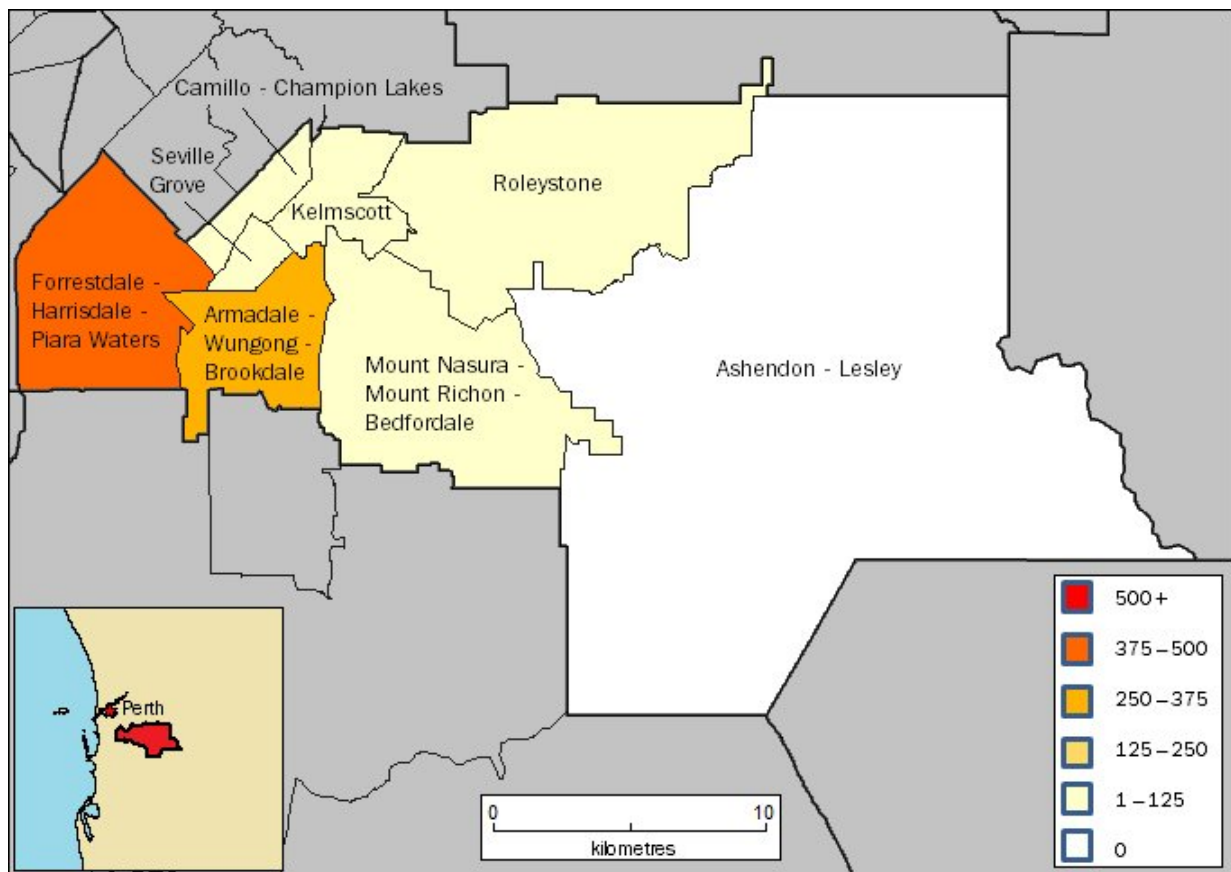
Map 1A shows the SLA (ASGC) representing the City of Armadale in Western Australia.

Map 1A: Number of New House Building Approvals by SLA, July-December 2011, ASGC



Under the ASGS, this SLA is now represented by the SA3 of Armadale and its eight SA2s, providing a greater level of geographic detail (Map 1B).

Map 1B: Number of New House Building Approvals by SA2, July-December 2011, ASGS



Under the ASGC, the SLA of Armadale (C) had 708 new houses approved from July to December 2011. Under the new ASGS structure, the SA3 of Armadale also has 708 new house building approvals. There were 456 approvals in the SA2 of Forrestdale - Harrisdale - Piara Waters, 128 in Armadale - Wungong - Brookdale, 38 in Kelmscott, 27 in Seville Grove, 26 in Camillo - Champion Lakes, 20 in Mount Nasura - Mount Richon - Bedfordale, 13 in Roleystone and zero in Ashendon - Lesley.

Forrestdale - Harrisdale - Piara Waters, which accounts for about 8% of Armadale SA3, had 64% of the total number of new house approvals.

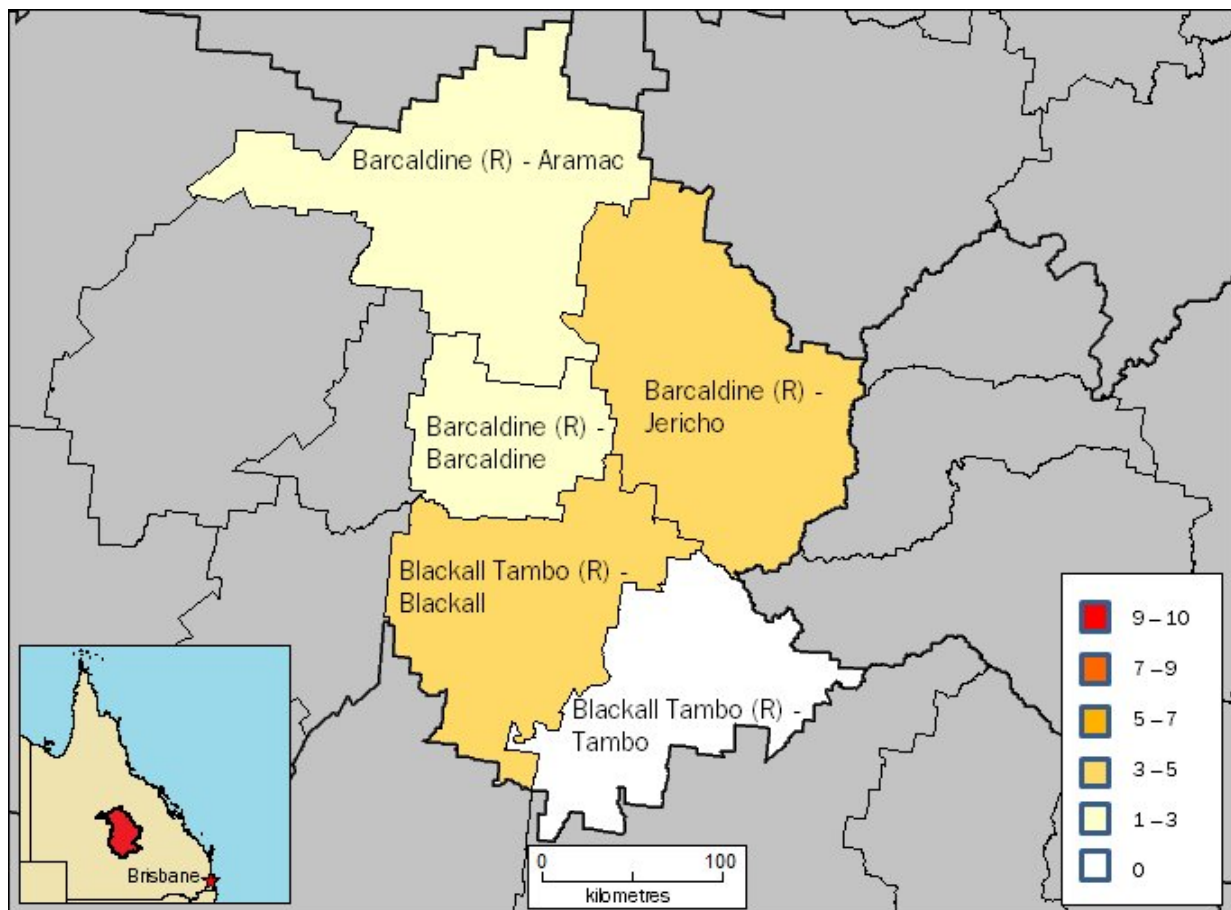
In this case study, the ASGS has provided more detailed regional data than the ASGC.

[Back to top](#)

CASE STUDY #2

In contrast to Case Study #1, this example from Queensland shows the converse. Here, the region has changed from five sparsely 'populated' SLAs (ASGC) to one SA2 (ASGS). As per Case study #1, there is a perfect outer boundary match - which we must remind users - is not always the case.

Map 2A: Number of New House Building Approvals by SLA, July-December 2011, ASGC



Under the ASGC there were three SLAs based on Barcaldine and two based around Blackall. With the new ASGS, however, a single SA2 combines the two main centres - renamed as Barcaldine - Blackall.

Map 2B: Number of New House Building Approvals by SA2, July-December 2011, ASGS



For the five SLAs under the ASGC (Map 2A), Blackall Tambo (R) - Tambo had zero approvals, while Barcaldine (R) - Aramac and Barcaldine (R) - Barcaldine had one approval each, and Barcaldine (R) - Jericho and Blackall Tambo (R) - Blackall recorded three approvals each (eight new house approvals in total). The new Barcaldine - Blackall SA2 (ASGS) also recorded eight approvals.

In this case study, the new ASGS provides a more consolidated SA2 region than the sparsely 'populated' SLAs.

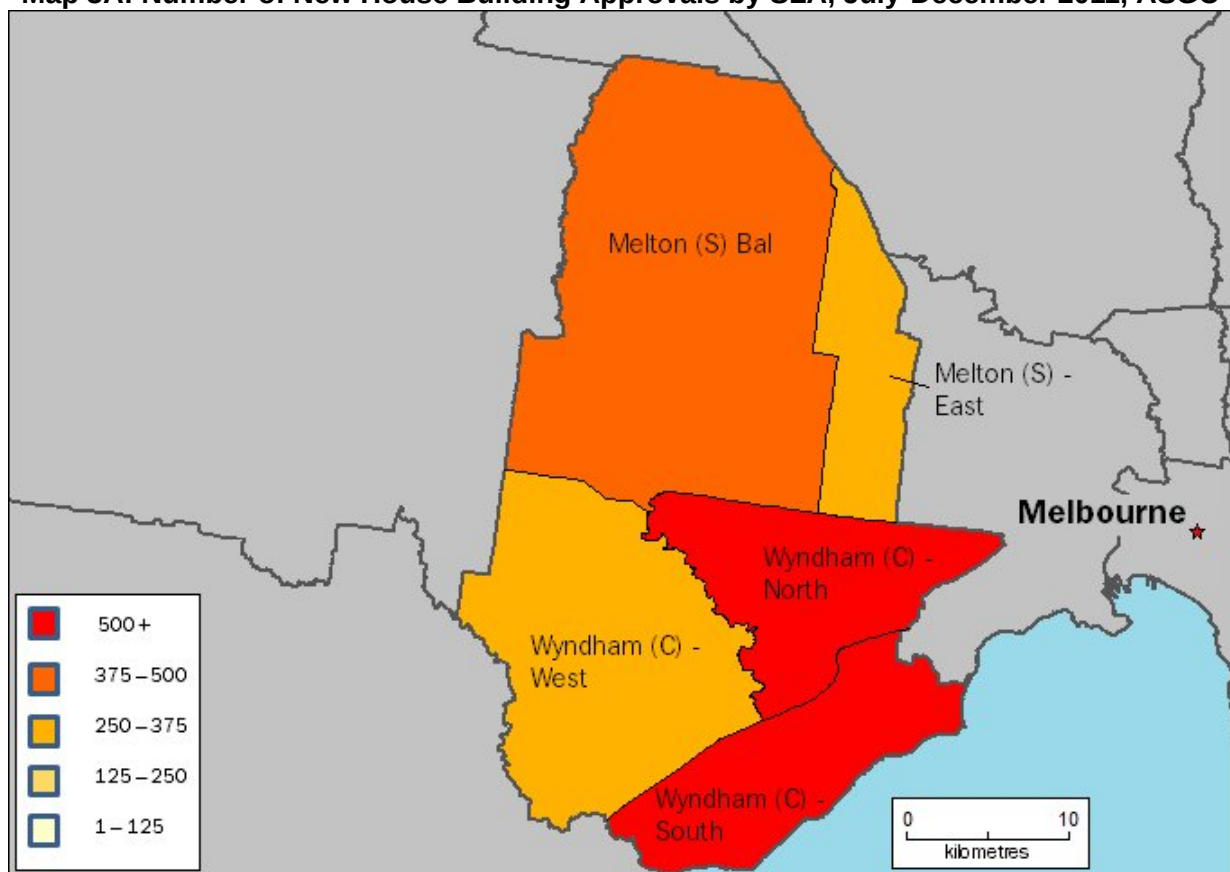
[Back to top](#)

CASE STUDY #3

This case study is an example of where a Statistical Subdivision (SSD) under the ASGC covers an apparently similar geographic area to two SA3s (ASGS).

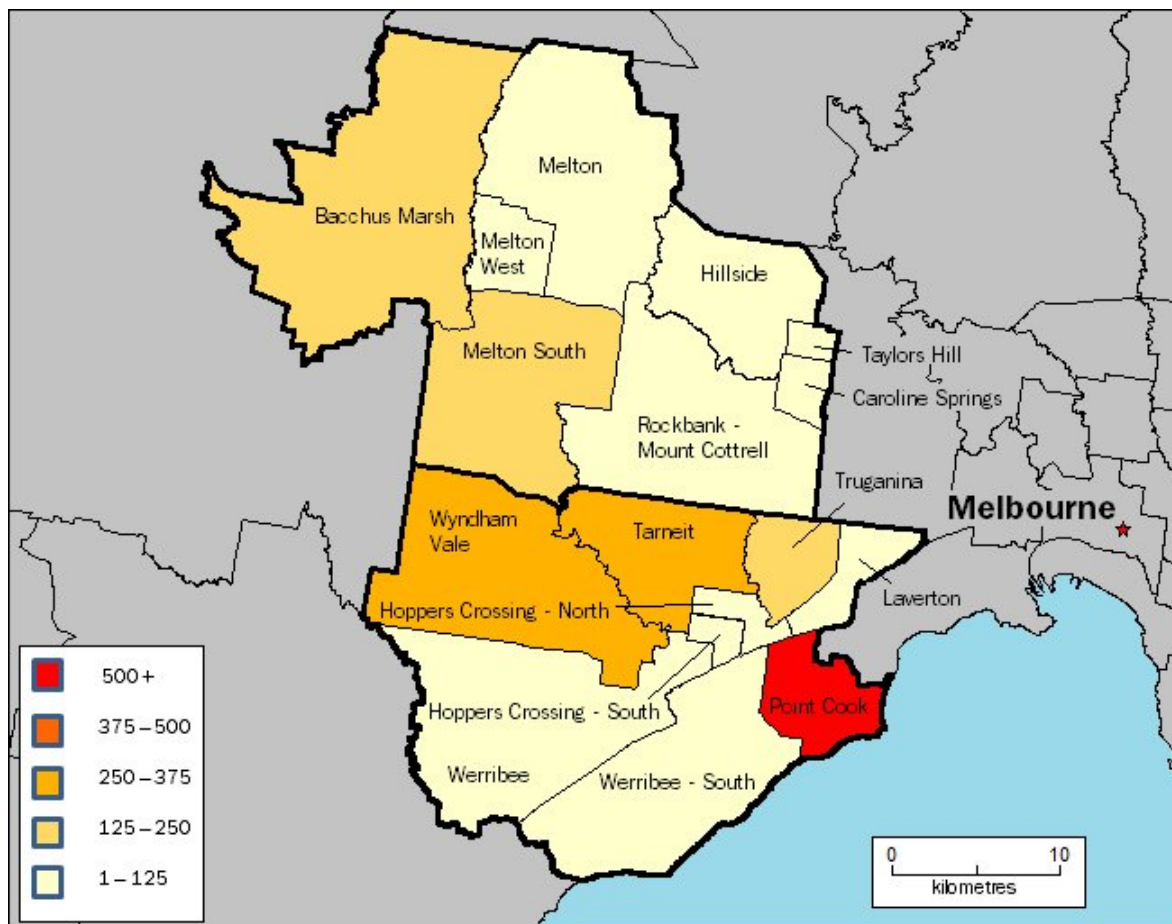
Map 3A shows the SSD (ASGC) of Melton - Wyndham on the outskirts of Melbourne, with its five component SLAs.

Map 3A: Number of New House Building Approvals by SLA, July-December 2011, ASGC



Map 3B shows that under the ASGS, a slightly different area is covered by two SA3s (shown in bold boundary lines) and their component SA2s. For instance, the Bacchus Marsh SA2 is now included. Also, the former Wyndham (C) - North SLA (ASGC) has lost some land area to the new Werribee - South SA2 (ASGS). This is also an example of how the new ASGS region names are more closely related to localities than the (ASGC) SLA names (in Map 3A).

Map 3B: Number of New House Building Approvals by SA2, July-December 2011, ASGS



While this case study does not show a direct one on one transposition between boundaries like Armadale (Case Study #1), it does again highlight the more detailed information available from the ASGS. For example, under the ASGC, the SLA of Wyndham (C) - North recorded 632 new house approvals from July to December 2011. In contrast, under the new ASGS, this area is largely represented by Tarnet (with 313 approvals), Truganina (190), Laverton (73), Hoppers Crossing - North (7) and Hoppers Crossing - South (6) - or 589 new house approvals in aggregate.

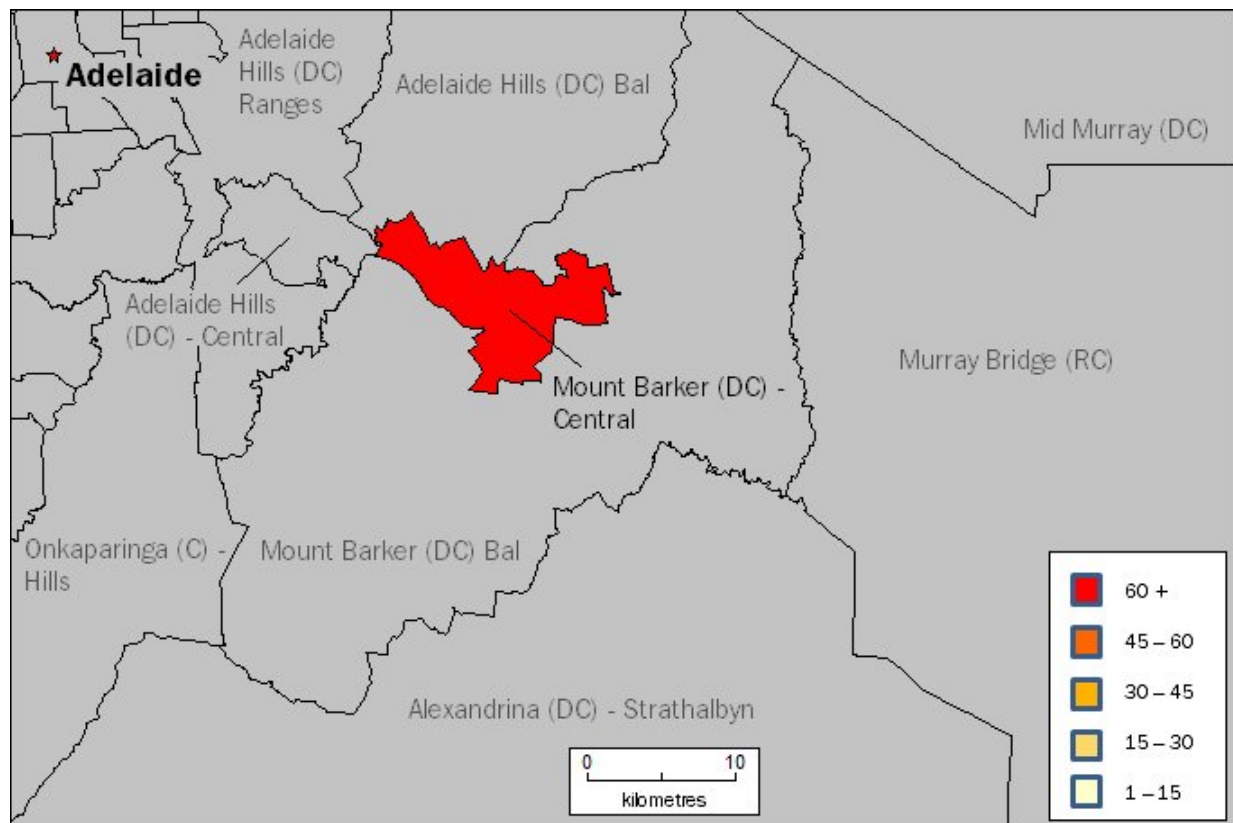
This case study is an example of where an ASGC region is now represented by a quite different geography (in size, structure and region names). In this case, the ASGS can provide more detailed regional data at the SA2 level.

[Back to top](#)

CASE STUDY #4

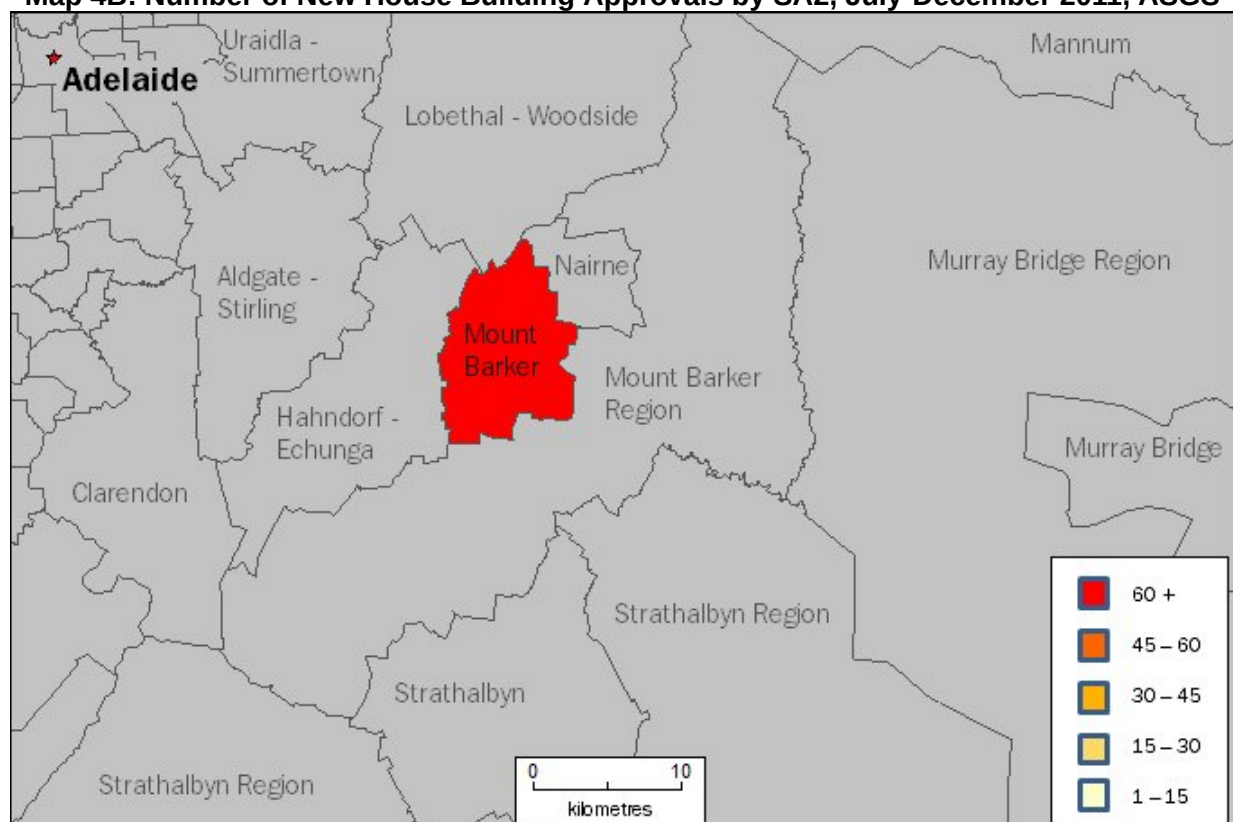
This South Australian case study is for the SLA of Mt Barker (DC) - Central in the ASGC, compared with the SA2 of Mt Barker (ASGS).

Map 4A: Number of New House Building Approvals by SLA, July-December 2011, ASGC



There has been a noticeable change between the boundaries. For example, the locality of Nairne was previously contained within the Mount Barker (DC) - Central and Mount Barker (DC) - Balance SLAs, whereas now it is a distinct, separate SA2, to the north-east of the new Mount Barker SA2.

Map 4B: Number of New House Building Approvals by SA2, July-December 2011, ASGS



Despite such boundary changes, the Building Approvals data for both regions is very similar. Under the ASGC, Mt Barker (DC) - Central had 69 new house approvals for July 2011 to December 2011, whereas under ASGS, Mt Barker SA2 had 65 new house approvals.

This case study provides an example of how the data can appear similar, but relate to quite different geographic areas under the ASGC and ASGS.

[Back to top](#)

CONCLUSION

These case studies have shown four different examples of the impact of the change from ASGC to ASGS, using Building Approvals data.

While the ASGS has delivered recognisable regions and in some cases more detailed small area data, two of the case studies also show the importance of understanding the differences in ASGC/ASGS boundaries and noting changes in region names.

To enable more effective interpretation of data under the ASGS, it is recommended that users:

- check the ASGC and ASGS maps to see where the boundary changes/differences are.
- check region names and do not assume that the ASGC/ASGS regions are the same because they have a 'similar' name.

FURTHER INFORMATION

ASGS maps can be downloaded from Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) - Volume 1: Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001).

If you are interested in other small area buildings data, or extensions to what has been covered in this article, you can visit our specialist data services page at the National Information and Referral Service (NIRS).

[Back to top](#)

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1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, 2012

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REGIONAL DATA AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Finding data for your Local Government Area

Wyndham LGA - An example

Transition to the ASGS

Product development - Give us your suggestions

Finding the NRP on the ABS website

FINDING DATA FOR YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Want to find out how many people live in your Local Government Area (LGA)? What is the birth rate? What is the average taxable income? How many people have access to the internet at home? All this information, and much more, can be accessed through the National Regional Profile (NRP) on the ABS website.

There are around 300 data items in the NRP available under the broad topics of Economy, Population/ People, Industry and Environment/Energy.

Data for individual regions are available in a variety of formats, discoverable through an easy to use mapping interface. You can choose a region from the lists on the left of the map, drill down into the map, or type the region name into the address search box. Once you have found your region, click on 'Get Data' to open the profile in a new window.

Profiles can be viewed as web pages or downloaded in Excel one region at a time, or click on the 'Compare Regions' button on the map page to access all data for all regions in SuperTABLE and csv formats.

[Back to top](#)

WYNDHAM LGA - An example

The LGA of Wyndham in Victoria is used here to showcase some of the information available in the NRP. Covering an area of 541.8 km², Wyndham LGA is on the south west fringes of Melbourne, and partly bordered by the coastline of Port Phillip Bay.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Home First Visit? Statistics Services Census Topics a Glance Methods & Standards News & Media Education Links Help

National Regional Profile 2006-2010

How to find a Region Compare Regions About the Data Videos and other Help Past Issues

Use the list or map to select a region, then click on Get Data to download a data profile in a new window.

Search

Find an address or region [Search tips](#)

Finished Parsing 14 markers in 0.266 seconds

Legend

- Country
- State/Territory
- State/Territory Capital
- Statistical Division (SD)
- Statistical SubDivision (SSD)
- Statistical Local Area (SLA)
- Country
- State/Territory
- State/Territory Capital
- Local Government Area (LGA)

Select region by name or by map

☒ Show boundaries on the map

SD/SSD/SLA Local Government Area

- Northern Grampians (S) (LGA) - Get Data
- Port Phillip (C) (LGA) - Get Data
- Pyrenees (S) (LGA) - Get Data
- Queenscliffe (B) (LGA) - Get Data
- South Gippsland (S) (LGA) - Get Data
- Southern Grampians (S) (LGA) - Get Data
- Stonnington (C) (LGA) - Get Data
- Strathbogie (S) (LGA) - Get Data
- Surf Coast (S) (LGA) - Get Data
- Swan Hill (RC) (LGA) - Get Data
- Towong (S) (LGA) - Get Data
- Wangaratta (RC) (LGA) - Get Data
- Warrnambool (C) (LGA) - Get Data
- Wellington (S) (LGA) - Get Data
- West Wimmera (S) (LGA) - Get Data
- Whitehorse (C) (LGA) - Get Data
- Whittlesea (C) (LGA) - Get Data
- Wodonga (RC) (LGA) - Get Data
- Wyndham (C) (LGA) - Get Data
- Yarra (C) (LGA) - Get Data
- Yarra Ranges (S) (LGA) - Get Data
- Yarriambiack (S) (LGA) - Get Data
- Unincorporated Vic (LGA) - Get Data

Map Satellite Hybrid

Clear selected region

Image taken from the National Regional Profile

Population/People

In the twelve months to 2009-10, Wyndham's population grew by 12,694 (8.8%) to a total of 156,573 persons. This increase was more than five times the rate of Australia's population growth for the same period.

The most prominent age group in Wyndham was 0 - 14 years, comprising 24.1% of the region's total population in 2009-10.

Economy

Wyndham's Average Wage and Salary income in 2008-09 was \$46,318 - higher than the corresponding Victorian level (\$45,246).

In 2008-09, 27.0% of Wyndham's Wage and salary earners were aged 25 years to 34 years. In occupation terms, the largest proportion (19.4%) of all Wage and salary earners were 'Clerical and Administrative workers', followed by 'Professionals' (15.5%), and 'Tradespersons and Related workers' (12.4%).

Industry

In 2009-10, the number of new private sector houses approved in Wyndham was 5,262, an increase of 1,768 (50.60%) from 2008-09.

Environment/Energy

Wyndham had an area of 3,000 ha irrigated in 2005-06, which is 7.1% of all agricultural land in the area. The total water use for farms in Wyndham in 2005-06 was 9,925 ML, or 0.4% of all water used on Victorian farms in that year.

TRANSITION TO THE ASGS

Future editions of the NRP will incorporate the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The ASGS was developed following a review of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) that commenced in 2006 and involved consultation with a broad range of stakeholders. The ASGS has been designed to better meet the statistical needs of users and to address some of the shortcomings of the ASGC. The March 2011 issue of this newsletter included an article 'Australian Statistical Geography Standard' containing more information about the change to ASGS.

Profiles for Local Government Areas will continue to be produced in future NRP editions (next release 2013). The table below outlines how boundaries will be affected under the ASGS structure.

Current ASGC level produced	New ASGS level produced	Differences
Australia	Australia	None
State/Territory	State/Territory	None
Capital City Statistical Division	Greater Capital City Statistical Area	Significant boundary and concept differences
Local Government Area	Local Government Area	LGA boundaries will be maintained as non-ABS structures of the ASGS
Statistical Local Area	Statistical Area Level 2	Significant boundary and concept differences

Further information regarding how Local Government Areas fit within the new structure, can be accessed from the left hand side of the page under the heading 'ASGS Fact Sheets' on the ABS Geography portal <http://www.abs.gov.au/Geography>.

[Back to top](#)

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT - Give us your suggestions

The ABS is continually refining the NRP, seeking new, valuable data sets that could be added. If you know of 'untapped' local government datasets that may be available across all jurisdictions, please forward your suggestions to our data development team, for further investigation. Similarly you may have ideas on how to make the NRP interface more user friendly. Please contact us by email at regional.statistics@abs.gov.au.

FINDING THE NRP ON THE ABS WEBSITE

For more information, refer to the National Regional Profile 2006-2010 (cat. no. 1379.0.55.001), which can be accessed on the ABS home page from the left hand side of the page under the heading 'Regional Statistics'.

[Back to top](#)

This page last updated 19 December 2013

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Australian Bureau of Statistics

1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, 2012

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 16/03/2012



POPULATION CENSUS DEVELOPMENTS

Added 31/10/2012

2011 Census data released

2016 Census planning update

2011 CENSUS DATA RELEASED

First release

The first release phase of 2011 Census of Population and Housing data commenced on 21 June 2012. This included the release of core demographic data items which are freely available in a variety of products from the Census Data & analysis page on the ABS website. This page also provides access to TableBuilder Pro and DataPacks which are designed for advanced Census data users.

Second release

The second release phase commenced on 30 October 2012 and included data items requiring more detailed processing, such as the 'Occupation' and 'Method of Travel to Work' variables. Second release 2011 Census data is now available in TableBuilder (Basic and Pro), 4 weeks ahead of schedule. The Place of Enumeration and Expanded Community Profiles with 2011 Census second release data are also available. The Working Population Community Profiles and online DataPacks for Place of Enumeration, Expanded and Working population profiles will be released on 20 November 2012.

This release also include the boundaries for Urban Centre and Locality/Section of State and Significant Urban Areas structures. Details of which can be found in Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 4 - Significant Urban Area, Urban Centres and Localities and Section of State, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.004).

Further information

More detailed information about the 2011 Census data products, the release schedule and changes between the 2006 and 2011 Census, is included in Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing -- Products and Services, 2011 (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001).

2016 CENSUS PLANNING UPDATE

Public consultation for the review of Census topics and procedures for 2016 will commence after the 2011 Census second data release. Following the release of the information paper – Census of Population and Housing: Consultation on Content and Procedures, 2016 (cat. no. 2007.0) – public seminars outlining the consultation and submission process and ABS proposals for the 2016 Census will occur around Australia. Details for registration, dates and location of these seminars will be advertised on the Census Newsboard page from 6 November 2012.

Added 16/3/2012

2011 Census output plans

Changes between the 2006 and 2011 Censuses

Census pages updated on ABS website

2016 Census planning

2011 CENSUS OUTPUT PLANS

Data release dates confirmed

Development is well underway for the 2011 Census output program and the ABS is committed to releasing the results of the 2011 Census through a wide range of products and services designed to make it easy for you to access the data you need. The information about the 2011 release plans and output product range was released in the ABS Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing -- Products and Services, 2011 (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001) on 22 December 2011.

The paper provided information on:

- 2011 output product range and associated pricing policies
- key release dates for the full range of 2011 Census output products
- changes to 2011 Census data concepts and classifications.

Data product range

The 2011 Census data will be released through a wide range of products and services designed to make it easy for users to access the data they need. Predominantly, data from 2011 Census will be released free of charge through a suite of products such as:

- QuickStats: a simple at-a-glance summary of Census statistics for a selected area
- Community Profiles: detailed Census data for a selected area in a series of tables in Excel format
- TableBuilder Basic: an online tool containing Census data in a range of person, family and dwelling topics, which you can use to create custom tables, graphs and maps for all Census geographic area
- DataPacks online: large volumes of Census data about people, families and dwellings for a range of areas, which you can download and import into your own systems.

Some products also have associated charges and are priced in accordance with the government 'user-pays' policy. The charged data products are:

- TableBuilder Pro: an online tool you can use to construct large and complex custom tables and view data in graphs and maps, with access to almost all Census variables and all Census geographic areas
- DataPacks on DVD: large volumes of Census data about people, families and dwellings for all available geographic areas, which you can import into your own systems
- Census Sample Files: a confidentialised sample of Census unit record data for modelling and analysis
- 5% Statistical Longitudinal Dataset: data from the 2006 and 2011 Censuses, brought together for analytical and research purposes.

[Back to top](#)

Release plans

The release plan discussed in the paper advised that there will be a three-phased release of the 2011 Census data:

- first release, containing core demographic data items, which will commence on 21 June 2012
- second release, commencing on 30 October 2012, which will include data items requiring more detailed processing (such as the 'Occupation' and 'Method of Travel to Work' variables)

- third release, commencing on 28 March 2013, with highly specialised products such as Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) and the Census Sample Files.

Registration opens on 30 April 2012 for the following products:

- 2011 TableBuilder Pro: registered users will be able to access 2011 TableBuilder Pro Shell database
- 2011 Data Packs online: registered users will be able to access 2011 Sample Data Packs online.

Sample Community Profiles will also be available online from 30 April 2012. None of these products will contain any data until the actual release date.

Data for Local Government Areas (LGAs) will be available in various products in the first and subsequent releases. For example, LGA data will be available in the Basic Community Profiles in the first release and the Working Population Profiles in the second release.

Advance order service for customised tables

In order to help you prepare for your receipt and use of 2011 Census information, the ABS is again making available its Advance Order Service for customised tables. This service proved popular for the 2006 Census. As demand for customised tables is high in the months following release, the ABS encourages you to consider your data requirements and place your order early.

The Advance Order Service allows you to pre-order Census data, tailored to your specific needs. This service is perfect for those requiring large and/or complex tables.

You may place your order for either first or second release data (or both), from Thursday 1 March 2012.

Clients taking advantage of this service will have their orders processed on a 'first in, first served' basis. Data will be delivered as soon as possible following the official releases of the 2011 Census data. Data purchases may be pre-paid to meet your financial year budgetary requirements.

To discuss your customised Census data requirements, or to place your order for customised Census data tables, please call the ABS on 1300 135 070, or email client.services@abs.gov.au and mention the 'Advance Order Service'. Your enquiry will be referred to an ABS Information Consultant who will contact you to discuss the details and relevant cost of your requirements.

[Back to top](#)

CHANGES BETWEEN THE 2006 and 2011 CENSUSES

Classifications

The paper advises of a number of major changes to some of the classifications used in the 2011 Census, including the greatest change around geographical units used to output Census data. The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) will be used for the 2011 Census for the first time and replaces the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) used in the 2006 Census. Statistical Area Level 1s (SA1s) are composed of aggregates of Mesh Blocks (MB) and will replace Census Collection Districts (CDs) as the new base unit of output geography for the 2011 Census. The SA1 unit will aggregate to form the higher level units in the main structure of the ASGS.

The change in classification means there will be an unavoidable break in time series, however for the 2011 Census, the Statistical Local Area (SLA) while not a defined region in the new ASGS, will be available as a transitional unit to allow for comparison to the 2006 Census. LGA data will continue to be available for future Censuses. Data from the 2016 Census data will not be available for SLAs.

For full details of all 2011 Census classifications please refer to the Census Dictionary, 2011 (cat. no. 2901.0).

Products

There will be some new products for the 2011 Census, while others will no longer be produced. The new 2011 Census product TableBuilder Basic replaces CData online, and TableBuilder Pro will contain all the features and functionality of the 2006 Table Builder product, and more. Some products, such as Social Atlases, 2006 CData Online, 2006 TableBuilder, Census Tables and Mapstats, will be discontinued.

The full range of Census products are detailed in the ABS Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing -- Products and Services, 2011 (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001).

[Back to top](#)

New data items

Although the questions on the 2011 Census form did not change from those asked in 2006, the ABS has created a range of new data items from the information collected. Eight to ten new data items have been created for each of the Person, Family and Dwelling records. Examples of new data items are Hours Worked (ranges) for the Person record, Count of Persons in Family for the Family record and Number of Persons Usually Resident in Dwelling for the Dwelling record.

Full details of all changes that have been made to variables since the 2006 Census are included in the Census Dictionary, 2011 (cat. no. 2901.0).

More detailed information about other 2011 Census data products, the release schedule and changes between the 2006 and 2011 Censuses is included in the ABS Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing -- Products and Services, 2011 (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001).

CENSUS PAGES UPDATED ON ABS WEBSITE

The Census pages on the ABS website are being redesigned to improve your experience, as a consequence of feedback received and website analytics. The Census pages will have a new look and feel to help you navigate to the data product or information that best meets your needs. This includes new graphic design elements, navigation changes and an overall simplification of the way you get Census data and associated information. The Newsboard page includes the latest product news information, articles, release schedules and other general Census information.

2016 CENSUS PLANNING

The ABS is already planning for the 2016 Census and you can provide your input by completing this form, Tell us what you think, or by email to 2016census@abs.gov.au.

[Back to top](#)

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Australian Bureau of Statistics

1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, 2012

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 16/03/2012



ABS GEOGRAPHY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Added 31/10/2012

Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) correspondences

Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) structures update

AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARD (ASGS) CORRESPONDENCES

Correspondence files are used to transform data from one geography to another. The ABS is making an extensive range of correspondence files available to assist with the implementation of the ASGS. Several correspondences, including LGA, were released in June and July 2012 in Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Correspondences, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.006). A LGA to Remoteness 2011 correspondence file is expected to be available early 2013.

For more information, including the availability of the various correspondences, see the Correspondences page of the Geography Portal.

AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARD (ASGS) STRUCTURES UPDATE

ABS Structures

The fourth volume of a series detailing the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) has been released. This publication describes the Significant Urban Area (SUA) and the Urban Centre and Locality/Section of State (UCL/SOS) Structures of the ASGS.

The SUA provides a geographical standard for the publication of statistics about concentrations of urban development with a population of 10,000 people or more. The regions are constructed from whole Statistical Area Level 2s (SA2s).

The UCL/SOS structure provides a definition of urban areas. These regions are constructed from whole Statistical Area Level 1s (SA1s). SOS further aggregates the UCLs in each state on the basis of their population.

Further information on the SUA and UCL/SOS structures can be found in Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 4 - Significant Urban Area, Urban Centres and Localities and Section of State, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.004).

Non-ABS Structures

The 2012 update of ASGS Non-ABS Structures was released on 30 July 2012 in Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 3 - Non ABS Structures, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.003). The Non-ABS Structures of the ASGS bring together those regions which are not defined by the ABS, but which are supported by the ABS. This update contains revised digital boundaries, codes and labels for some LGAs since the 2011 edition. Changes to ABS approximated LGAs are only made when a whole Mesh Block (MB) can be allocated to represent the official LGA change. If the MB cannot be used to approximate the change, the ABS LGA has remained the same.

Further information about LGAs can be found in the 2011 publication of the Non-ABS Structures, ASGS Non ABS Structures July 2011 - Chapter 2 Local Government Areas.

[Back to top](#)

Added 16/3/2012

ABS statistical geography
Transforming data to the ASGS
ASGS implementation schedule
Further information

ABS STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY

The ABS is currently implementing a new statistical geography, the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), for the output of data. Local Government Areas are part of the ASGS and the ABS will continue to support LGAs with the data it currently provides.

Did you know that the ABS is responsible for developing statistical geography standards that are used for the dissemination of statistics? There is an ABS Geography Portal available on the ABS website that provides information on what a statistical geography is, as well as information on and relating to the current statistical geography standards.

Since 1984 the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) has been used by the ABS for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. The final edition of the ASGC was released in July 2011 from which time it is progressively being replaced with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) as its geographical framework. From July 2012, the ASGC will no longer be updated and the ASGS will be the sole ABS statistical geography. More information about the change to the ASGS is on the Frequently Asked Questions page of the Geography Portal.

The ASGS will be used for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, however 2011 Census data will also be available on ASGC Statistical Local Areas (SLAs). The 2011 Census of Population and Housing data will be available at the LGA level. The ABS anticipates that all its spatial data will be based on the ASGS by 2014.

For information on the geographical units of the ASGS see the Australian Statistical Geography Standard page in the ABS Geography Portal.

[Back to top](#)

How do Local Government Areas fit into the ASGS?

The ASGS brings all the regions used by the ABS to output data under the one umbrella. They are divided into two broad categories: ABS Structures (those regions which are defined and maintained by the ABS) and Non-ABS Structures (those regions defined and maintained by other organisations, but for which the ABS supplies data). LGAs are not defined or maintained by the ABS and are therefore included in the Non-ABS Structures of the ASGS. LGAs are approximated by aggregates of whole Mesh Blocks which are the smallest region within the ASGS. The ABS will update the LGA structure of the ASGS annually. This will enable the continued availability of LGA data under the ASGS.

For more information on how LGAs fit into the ASGS please refer to the Local Government Areas Fact Sheet from the ASGS Fact Sheets page on the ABS Geography Portal.

Digital Boundary Files

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Volume 3 - Non-ABS Structures (cat. no. 1270.0.55.003) includes the LGA digital boundary files in MapInfo Interchange and ESRI Shapefile formats. This publication also includes the manual, LGA labels and codes for all LGAs under the ASGS Non-ABS Structures.

[Back to top](#)

TRANSFORMING DATA TO THE ASGS

To assist with the implementation of the ASGS, an extensive range of correspondences will be available. Correspondences involve mathematically reassigning the data from one geographic region to another. Under the ASGS a new method for building correspondences has been developed. The standard correspondences will use a weighting calculated using mesh block population data from the 2011 Census. For more information, including the availability of the various correspondences, see the Correspondences page of the Geography Portal. Correspondences based on area or other variables may also be available on request. LGA correspondences will be available in mid 2012. Standard ASGS correspondences will be available free of charge either from the ABS website or by emailing geography@abs.gov.au.

Further detail on correspondences and other options for converting data to the ASGS is in the ABS Information Paper: Converting Data to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard, 2012 (cat. no. 1216.0.55.004).

Mesh Block to ABS LGA files (csv format) containing codes and area (in square kilometres) for all LGAs under the ASGS Non-ABS Structures are included in Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Volume 3 - Non-ABS Structures (cat. no. 1270.0.55.003).

[Back to top](#)

ASGS IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

A summary table of the ABS publications that will be impacted by the transition from the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) is included on the ASGS Implementation Schedule for ABS Publications page in the ABS Geography Portal. For each publication the table summarises the geographical level available (including LGAs) and output dates for data on the ASGC and the ASGS. It also indicates the availability of any time series data that will be provided.

The schedule also includes links to more detailed release plans where they are available. For example, for detailed information on Population Estimates see the ABS Information Paper: Population Estimates Under Australia's New Statistical Geography, August 2011 (cat. no. 3219.0.55.001). Plans for LGA Building Approvals statistics are outlined in Building Approvals, Australia, April 2011 (cat. no. 8731.0). Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0) began releasing statistics under the ASGS in the July 2011 issue.

The implementation schedule will continue to be updated with information as it becomes available.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information please follow the link to the ABS Geography Portal. If you have any questions regarding the ASGS please email geography@abs.gov.au.

[Back to top](#)

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Australian Bureau of Statistics

1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, 2012

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 16/03/2012



REGIONAL POPULATION ESTIMATES

Added 31/10/2012

Annual Estimated Resident Population data
Regional internal migration estimates released

ANNUAL ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION DATA

The annual Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data for regions has been released in Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2011 (cat. no. 3218.0) and Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2011 (cat. no. 3235.0). These releases include final estimates for 2001 to 2006 and preliminary rebased estimates for 2007 to 2011, based on results of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. Population estimates based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) are included for the last time while estimates based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) are released for the first time. From 30 June 2012, sub-state population estimates will be prepared and released for ASGS regions only, including for Local Government Areas.

Rebased ERP and Intercensal error

The preliminary rebasing process has resulted in Australia's estimated resident population for the period September 2006 to June 2011 being revised down significantly, which in turn has effected estimates of population growth. The September 2012 edition of Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0) includes advice on how to use the data in Feature Article 4: Advice on the Use of 2011 Preliminary Rebased ERP, and in the Technical Note: The Impact of Improvements to the 2011 PES on Measuring Population Growth (2006-2011).

The national intercensal error for the 2006-2011 period is the highest on record and the ABS is formulating an appropriate treatment for this in the final rebasing process. The September 2012 release of Australian Demographic Statistics also includes a short discussion paper highlighting the current position on the issue in Feature Article 3: Proposed ABS Treatment of Intercensal Error for 2006-2011. The ABS treatment will be finalised in late 2012 with further details to be released in Australian Demographic Statistics on 18 December 2012. Feedback on the proposed treatment is encouraged by the ABS, please contact Bjorn Jarvis on (02) 6252 6411, Phil Browning on (02) 6252 6639, or email demography@abs.gov.au. Final rebased regional ERP is planned for release in August 2013.

REGIONAL INTERNAL MIGRATION ESTIMATES RELEASED

Migration, Australia, 2010-11 (cat. no. 3412.0) was released on 15 August 2012 and includes, for the first time, a series of annual experimental estimates of regional internal migration. Data cubes attached to this product provide summaries of this experimental data for years ending 30 June 2007 to 2011, based on the 2011 edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC).

There are four new regional internal migration data cubes that allow for exploring the trends within the past five years:

- SLA/SSD/SD-level geography, arrivals/departures/net movers (table 7) - e.g. the detailed small area level can show just how many people move in to and out of Adelaide city each year and if more move in to or out of regional centres.
- SD/SSDs with capital cities, by age group and sex (table 8) - e.g. the age and sex characteristics can show which areas young people are moving out of and areas oldies are moving in to.
- inter-SD/SSD data (table 9) - e.g. the source and destination aspects can show where all the new Gold Coast residents are arriving from and where the drought-affected former Far West (NSW) people are moving to.
- part of state, single year of age (table 10) - e.g. the detailed age breakdown can show the ages that more people move in to and out of our capital cities.

For further information see paragraphs 59-61 of the Explanatory Notes.

[Back to top](#)

Added 16/3/2012

The 2010-11 issue of ABS publication Regional Population Growth, Australia (cat. no. 3218.0) will be released on 30 March 2012. This product will contain the first release of 30 June 2011 population estimates for regions below the state and territory level, based on Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), and including Local Government Areas (LGAs).

The March 2012 release of Regional Population Growth, Australia will be the last product to include population estimates updated from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. The next scheduled release of this product is 31 July 2012, which will contain population estimates based on the 2011 Census.

One month later, on 31 August 2012, the breakdowns of these estimates by age and sex will be released. These estimates will be based on results of the 2011 Census, and will be released in Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia (cat. no. 3235.0).

The March 2012 release of Regional Population Growth, Australia will also be the last time that population estimates based primarily on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) are released. The ASGC is the old geographical boundary set for which ABS releases spatial statistics. The base spatial unit of the ASGC is the SLA, for which population estimates are prepared and made freely available on the ABS website. Population estimates for LGAs are built up from SLA-level estimates.

Future releases of this product will be based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), which is the new base for understanding and interpreting the geographic context of ABS statistics, including regional population estimates. The base spatial unit of the ASGS for which regional population estimates will be prepared and released is the Statistical Area 2 (SA2) level. SA2s do not all align with LGAs. However, as LGA population estimates are regarded as a crucial ABS output, they will continue to be prepared annually and made freely available on the ABS website. For more information about the ASGS refer to Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001).

The boundaries on which these LGA population estimates will be prepared will be updated each year, in line with official gazetted boundaries for all LGAs.

More information about the future of population estimates is contained in Information Paper Population Estimates under Australia's New Statistical Geography (cat. no. 3219.0.55.001). This paper also provides a broad overview of the ASGS and outlines the methodology that will be used to prepare population estimates under the ASGS. It also includes information about the historical time-series of population estimates that will be prepared. Throughout November 2011 to March 2012 the ABS conducted a series of information sessions across the country to further explain these upcoming changes to population estimates under the new geography.

For further information about ABS regional population estimates email regional.population@abs.gov.au.

[Back to top](#)

This page last updated 30 January 2013

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Australian Bureau of Statistics

1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, 2012

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 16/03/2012



Local Government Finance News

Added 31/10/2012

COLLECTIONS

Annual

The 2010-11 Local Government Annual financial and functional data has now been released and is available for viewing in Government Finance Statistics, Australia (cat. no. 5512.0). As a whole, Local Government Balance Sheets increased 0.32% to \$313,364m. Preparations for the 2011-12 financial year are in progress with Department of Local Government or Grants Commission in each state or territory progressively sending out this years forms to councils.

Quarterly

The next Local Government Quarterly Survey forms were due for completion and submission by 9th October, and applied only to those councils selected in this sample survey. The data collected within this survey forms a timely and valuable contribution to the Quarterly Government Finance Statistics in Government Finance Statistics, Australia, Quarterly (cat. no. 5519.0.55.001).

Added 16/3/2012

COLLECTIONS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collects and publishes annual Local Government Finance data, including the amount and purpose of local government expenditure. These annual financial data are collected from the Department of Local Government or Grants Commission in each state or territory. The ABS also undertakes a quarterly sample survey of councils.

Annual

The Local Government Statistical Unit (LGSU) of the ABS is currently processing the 2010-11 Annual Data returns supplied by the Department of Local Government/Grants Commission of each state or territory. The financial and function data on these forms are edited and the output used by the ABS to compile Government Finance Statistics (GFS).

Total General Government expenses for the local government sector in Australia were \$27.9 billion in 2009-10. The major contributors were expenditure on Housing and community amenities (24.4%), Transport and communications (22%), General public services (18.8%) and Recreation and culture (14.6%).

[Back to top](#)

GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES BY PURPOSE, 2008-09 and 2009-10

	2008-09 \$m	2009-10 \$m
General public services	4 963	5 231
Public order and safety	575	585

Education	120	150
Health	307	298
Social security and welfare	1 500	1 573
Housing and community amenities	6 319	6 812
Recreation and culture	3 846	4 071
Fuel and energy	15	13
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	48	27
Mining, manufacturing and construction	306	301
Transport and communications	5 811	6 129
Other economic affairs	967	1 230
Public debt transactions	376	449
Other	999	1 230
Total	26 153	27 891

More financial and function data are published in [Government Finance Statistics, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5512.0) and 2010-11 data are due for release on 17 April 2012.

Quarterly

The ABS conducts a quarterly survey of financial information, from a selected sample of councils each quarter. Reminders for the next round of quarterly survey data will be despatched in the third week of March. Responses are required by **10 April 2012**. Early attention to the survey forms enabling a timely return to the ABS will ensure that the financial activity of local government is accurately represented in Australia's National Accounts.

The ABS thanks councils for their cooperation in providing timely and high quality data for these collections. The information provided is used in making important policy decisions concerning the sector and it is important that accurate and timely information is returned by councils to build this data set.

VISITS TO DEPARTMENTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND GRANTS COMMISSIONS

Each year, the LGSU endeavours to meet with state/territory Grants Commissions or Departments of Local Government to review the recently completed annual collection and to commence preparations for the next cycle. These meetings are to be scheduled in accordance with the forward work program of the LGSU and are in the process of being finalised.

CONTACT

For further information or inquiries about Local Government Statistics, contact the Local Government Statistical Unit on (07) 3222 6404.

[Back to top](#)

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Australian Bureau of Statistics

1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, 2012

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 16/03/2012



OTHER NEWS AND CONTACTS

Added 31/10/2012

Agriculture Census releases

Local Government Areas and building approval data

AGRICULTURE CENSUS RELEASES

Final estimates for the 2010-11 Agricultural Census were released initially on the 29 June 2012. The initial releases included, agricultural commodity information (including area and production) in [Agricultural Commodities, Australia, 2010-11](#) (cat. no. 7121.0), information on production value in [Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, 2010-11](#) (cat. no. 7503.0) and agricultural water use information in [Water Use on Australian Farms, 2010-11](#) (cat. no. 4618.0). The June releases were predominantly at state and national levels.

Subsequent regional releases are planned for 9 November 2012 for commodity data and 21 December 2012 for water use. These are planned for Natural Resource Management (NRM) levels, and down as far as Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) on the Australian Statistical Geographical Standard (ASGS) geography, and Statistical Local Area (SLA) on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) geography.

Other planned releases that will feature Agricultural Census information include the [Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production](#) (cat. no. 4610.0.55.008), to be released on 13 December 2012 at the NRM level, and [Historical Selected Agriculture Commodities, by State 1861 to present](#) (cat. no. 7124.0) which features state and national level information on a range of selected commodities, some going back to the 1860's.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS AND BUILDING APPROVAL DATA

From the July 2012 issue of Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0) onwards, data is being released on the ASGS only. Under the ASGS, Building Approval data will be published at the Australia, State/territory, Greater Capital City Statistical Area, Local Government Area and Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) levels. For more information see the Feature Article: Implementation of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard in ABS Building Approvals Collection.

Added 16/3/2012

Regional @ a Glance web pages

Help for Local Government on the ABS website

What's New in Regional Statistics

Regional internal migration estimates

Need help managing the quality of your statistics?

Betaworks showcases ABS web designers

Newsletter and ABS contact details

How to subscribe to this Newsletter

REGIONAL @ A GLANCE WEB PAGES

The " page was recently updated with the latest 'National Regional Profile' (NRP) data. The NRP contains a range of key summary social and economic data for regions including Local Government Areas.

The 'page assists users who are looking for data for their local government area. It provides links to data that can be used to answer basic social and economic questions on a local government area. A link to the National Regional Profile is also provided on this page to help you quickly find selected key statistics for your local government area.

Information on other regions, what's new and regional statistics help, can also be found on the Regional @ a Glance page.

HELP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON THE ABS WEBSITE

'Services to Local Government' is a series of information pages designed to help you find data for your local government area and inform you how to keep up to date with the latest ABS releases and available training. It also provides information about how ABS uses local government data. You can find the 'Services to Local Government' pages by heading to the ABS Home Page, clicking on 'Services' along the top navigation bar and following the link to 'Local Government'.

[Back to top](#)

WHAT'S NEW IN REGIONAL STATISTICS

If you are interested in regional statistics you may like to read the newsletter What's New in Regional Statistics (cat. no. 1386.0). This newsletter provides information on the latest developments in statistics that are relevant to regions (including metropolitan, urban, and rural areas) and other information of likely interest to researchers, policy makers and other users of small area data. What's New in Regional Statistics highlights data released by the ABS' Regional Statistics Program and includes articles on other ABS releases that are relevant to users of regional data.

For example, the June 2011 issue provided a feature article on 'The Changing Face of Wage and Salary Earners on Melbourne's Outskirts'.

REGIONAL INTERNAL MIGRATION ESTIMATES

The ABS is exploring the development of a new series of demographic estimates, to provide better information on movement patterns of Australia's population at regional level. Currently, the main source of migration data below state/territory level collected by the ABS is the five-yearly snapshots from the Census. Change-of-address information based on administrative data is being used to develop an experimental historical series of regional internal migration estimates, based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). Medicare data has not previously been deemed suitable for smaller regions mainly because it has been supplied to ABS by postcode, which is not directly compatible with the ASGC.

The ABS released Discussion Paper: Assessment of Methods for Developing Estimates for Regional Internal Migration (cat. no. 3405.0.55.001) in December 2011. This discussion paper provides an overview of the current sources of migration estimates and includes information about the data sources and methods used to develop an experimental historical series of regional internal migration estimates. It summarises a method to convert the historical Medicare-based internal migration data to ASGC boundaries. It discusses challenges with this approach and provides potential solutions to overcome these challenges in respect of the historical estimates. The paper also provided an opportunity to provide feedback to the ABS on these data, methods and experimental estimates. The ABS will then consider this feedback in planning any future work on regional internal migration estimates.

[Back to top](#)

NEED HELP MANAGING THE QUALITY OF YOUR STATISTICS?

The ABS has been releasing information on various quality initiatives to the ABS website over the past few years to help clients better manage the quality of their data and to better understand the quality of ABS data.

To make it easier for users to find all these quality initiatives (and others) the Statistical Quality Management webpage has recently been released and brings these resources together into a one-stop-online-shop to help clients find all of these resources. The information includes:

- the ABS Data Quality Framework which provides the standards for assessing and reporting on the quality of statistical information
- the ABS Data Quality Management page which includes some quality initiatives that may assist in managing the risks around your data e.g. quality gates which help you to identify any data problems closer in the process to when they occur
- links to ABS Quality Information Papers produced by ABS staff and
- links to Other Sources of Information Related to quality in the ABS.

BETAWORKS SHOWCASES ABS WEB DESIGNERS

BetaWorks gives ABS web designers a place to showcase their work and gain public insight into our website and its future. It's where ideas grow and the intelligence gained is used to improve your ABS website experience. It provides opportunities for comment on and input to potential innovations for the ABS website. New projects are uploaded regularly, so have a look and let us know what you think.

[Back to top](#)


NEWSLETTER AND ABS CONTACT DETAILS

This newsletter is designed to improve communication between the ABS and the Local Government Sector. New ABS initiatives to assist local government organisations will be announced in this newsletter as they evolve.

We appreciate receiving your views and suggestions about this newsletter so that it remains useful and assists you to understand and use ABS statistics. We also welcome suggestions for articles that you feel should be included. Please email your comments and suggestions to: regional.statistics@abs.gov.au.

For other enquiries contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or e-mail: client.services@abs.gov.au.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER

To subscribe to 'Local Government and ABS' and receive email notification of its release, simply click on the email notification icon  at the top of this page on the toolbar to access the Email Notification service, and follow the steps. The catalogue number of this newsletter (1376.0) will automatically be entered into the details.

Alternatively, you can access the Email Notification Service from the link on the ABS Home Page or from the Email Notification icon on any other page of the website where it appears. Simply choose topic '1. General', subtopic '13. Year books and other multi-subject products', select 'Go' and scroll down to '1376.0 - Local Government and ABS'. The service also enables you to find out what you have subscribed to, and cancel or modify your subscription.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, click on the following link [Remove Products From Your Subscription](#), and follow the steps above to select '1376.0 - Local Government and ABS'.

[Back to top](#)

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HISTORICAL LIST OF FEATURE ARTICLES

2012

- Oct 2012 Population Growth and Turnover in Local Government Areas
Wage and Salaries Between Local Government Areas
Agriculture Program News
- Apr 2012 Exploring the New ABS Geography with Buildings Data
- Mar 2012 Regional Data at your Finger Tips

2011

- Sep 2011 Estimates of Personal Income: Local Government Areas
- Mar 2011 Wages and Salaries in Your Local Government Area
Local Government Data Made Easy
Australian Statistical Geography Standard

2010

- Sep 2010 A Faster Way to Find Data for Your Local Government Area
Population by Age and Sex for Regions of Australia
- Mar 2010 Estimates of Personal Income
News from the National Statistical Service

2009

- Sep 2009 The New Australian Statistical Geography Standard
- Mar 2009 Explore your Local Government Area with CData Online
Statistician's Report on the Census
-

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Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 16/03/2012

A newsletter aimed at keeping local government informed of key ABS data and other relevant developments. This annual release will be updated during the year with any new information as it becomes available.

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1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, 2012

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 16/03/2012

This document was added 04/12/2012.

31/10/2012

- Information about the next Australian Community Indicators Network seminar and the new data items included in the next Edition of the National Regional Profile have been added to 'The ABS Regional Statistics Program' page.
- The 'Focus On' section contains three new feature articles, 'Population Growth and Turnover in Local Government Areas', 'Wages and Salaries Between Local Government Areas' and 'Agriculture Program News'.
- The 'Population Census Developments' page includes new details about the release of 2011 Census data and the consultation arrangements for the 2016 Census.
- Links to the recent releases of the ASGS Correspondences and the 2012 update of ASGS Structures have been added to the 'ABS Geography and Local Government Areas' page.
- Details about the release of annual Estimated Resident Population data including the rebased estimates and the recent release of the regional internal migration estimates are on the 'Regional Population Estimates' page.
- An update on the annual and quarterly Local Government Finance collections.
- Release arrangements of Building Approval data under the ASGS and Agriculture Census updates have been added to the 'Other News and Contacts' page.

12/04/2012

- 'The ABS Regional Statistics Program' page has been updated with new information.
- A new feature article, 'Exploring the New ABS Geography with Buildings Data', has been added to the 'Focus On' section.

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